



**access  
counts!**

# Physicians take the lead



**I**n 1999, the Medical Society of Sedgwick County and its community partners created **Project Access** to address the health care needs of the growing number of uninsured patients living in Wichita. Today, this nationally recognized program is a visible example of Sedgwick County physician leadership in action.

**Project Access** is a success because, when physicians work together, the responsibility is shared fairly and the services delivered are recognized and valued.

**Project Access** looks forward to adding your name to the list of participating providers. Simply complete the sign-up card and forward it to the Project Access office. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Project Access office at 316-688-0600.



## *Why is Project Access necessary?*

More than 60,000 residents in Wichita/Sedgwick County do not have access to health insurance and medical and dental care. Most uninsured work in one or more low-wage jobs without benefits and are not eligible for Medicaid. They often choose between paying for health insurance or food, clothing and housing. When they do receive medical care, it often comes late in the course of illness, and it is rarely delivered in a coordinated way that prevents future health problems.

Enrolled patients receive physician, dentist and hospital care at no cost, and medication assistance and medical equipment.



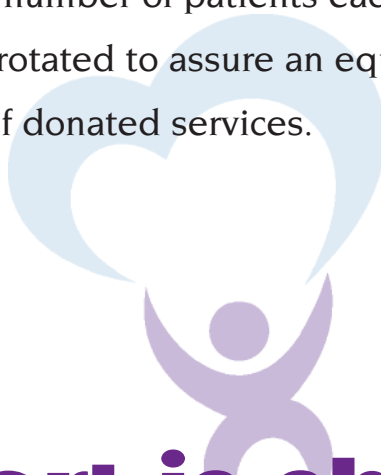
**put compassion  
into action**

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## *Why should I support Project Access?*

Through Project Access, physicians work in partnership with other health care providers, including hospitals, pharmacies, city and county government and other organizations to help the existing community health clinics and agencies care for our community's uninsured in a coordinated, efficient and effective process that properly recognizes your efforts.

Project Access maintains a referral system to monitor and track the number of patients each physician sees. Referrals are rotated to assure an equal and fair distribution of donated services.



**effort is shared  
and coordinated**

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## *How do patients become eligible?*

Project Access is a referral network accessed by community health clinics as well as participating physicians, dentists and residency clinics that serve our community's low-income, uninsured population.

Project Access patients must be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, have established a permanent home in Sedgwick County, be without health insurance and ineligible for Medicare/Medicaid. Total family income must meet the program's financial eligibility criteria.



**you identify need,  
we determine  
eligibility**

**12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**

## *How are patient visits scheduled?*

Clinic staff contacts a physician office to schedule the first visit, and mails or faxes needed medical information. Staff also informs the patient of the appointment time and place. Follow-up appointments are made with the patient.

Patients enrolled by their treating physicians may schedule necessary appointments directly with the doctor as needed.



**you control  
the scheduling**

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## *What do I do when I see a patient?*

Patients receive a Project Access ID card to present at each appointment. Physician office staff submits to Project Access a standard billing and coding form just as you already do for insurance (HCFA-1500). This billing form gives a complete record of the services provided and value of care donated.

Physician offices may also donate lab work, x-rays or other tests, or Project Access will assist in arranging for ancillary services at other participating facilities. No pre-certification is required.

After seeing a Project Access patient, the physician or dentist should call or write the referring doctor to provide an update.



**there's no extra  
paperwork**

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## *How many times can I see a patient?*

Patients may be seen as often as you deem appropriate. Project Access enrolls patients for six months. Physicians can authorize enrollment extensions if additional care is needed, as long as the patient is still eligible for the program. Project Access will determine patient eligibility for you.



**you decide  
amount of care**

**12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1**



## *What is the patient's responsibility?*

Patients must keep appointments and make a good-faith effort to carry out the physician's recommended plan of care. They are asked to thank their medical providers for generously donating their services.



**patients value  
their care**

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## *What if a patient needs hospitalization?*

Participating hospitals — Via Christi Regional Medical Center, Wesley Medical Center, Kansas Heart Hospital, Kansas Spine Hospital, Kansas Surgery and Recovery Center and Cypress Surgery Center — have volunteered to provide hospital care to Project Access patients at no cost (ER and inpatient psychiatric care are excluded). Physicians admit program patients to the hospital like any other patient.



**our hospitals  
have the beds**

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## *What if a patient needs medications?*

Project Access patients receive a prescription card that can be used at area pharmacies for generic prescriptions, and some name brands (insulin, asthma inhalers, etc.). Patients pay a minimal co-pay for each prescription. Upon enrollment, patients receive a list of participating pharmacies.

Generic prescriptions are filled based on a maximum allowable cost (MAC) list. The pharmacies do not charge dispensing fees. Funds provided by the Sedgwick County Commission and Wichita City Council (with CSBG funds) pay for Project Access's prescription program.



**our pharmacies  
have the meds**

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## *What about my current donated care?*

The number of low-income uninsured patients that physicians already see can count towards their Project Access pledge. Simply complete the patient referral form, fax it to Project Access, and they will determine the patient's eligibility.

Most physicians already provide donated care for uninsured patients in their practice. Others would help meet this need if the commitment is shared fairly and the work is valued. Project Access organizes this process and recognizes the care provided.



**get credit for  
current care**

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## *What about malpractice coverage?*

In the unlikely event that a physician would be sued for care donated to a Project Access patient, The State of Kansas, through the Charitable Health Care Provider (CHCP) Program, allows health care providers who give care to the medically indigent to be included for liability purposes under the Kansas Tort Claims Act special liability expense fund. This means those charitable health care providers who are sued by a recipient of their care will be defended by the Attorney General's office and the Kansas Tort Claims fund will be the payer of the first resort, even if another policy of professional liability insurance exists.

Project Access is an enrollment point for the CHCP Program. The enrollment form is provided with your Project Access information packet. Please return the completed form with your signed commitment card. Project Access staff will file it with the CHCP Program office.

**exposure to  
liability is limited**

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## *How much of a commitment is expected?*

Decide how you wish to be involved in Project Access. Here are a few options:

- **Specialist Physicians**

Accept 20 Project Access patients each year

- **Primary Care Physicians**

Accept 10 Project Access patients each year

- **Dentists**

Accept 12 Project Access patients each year

Participating providers may also:

- Volunteer at least 24 hours a year at a community health clinic
- Recruit other physicians
- Participate in the operation and evaluation of Project Access.



**set your own  
level of support**

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**1**

**we're  
counting  
on you!**



**Project Access**  
a community partnership

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Phone (316) 688-0600 / Fax (316) 688-0831

*Learn more about the program's history,  
statistics and evaluations at*  
**[www.cphcp.com](http://www.cphcp.com)**

# A community partnership.

- Medical Society of Sedgwick County
- Via Christi Regional Medical Center
- Wesley Medical Center
- Kansas Spine Hospital
- Kansas Heart Hospital
- Kansas Surgery & Recovery Center
- Cypress Surgery Center
- KU School of Medicine-Wichita and its residency clinics
- Center for Health & Wellness
- GraceMed Health Clinic
- Guadalupe Clinic
- Hunter Health Clinic
- Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services
- Wichita City Council
- Sedgwick County Commission
- United Way of the Plains
- Wichita District Dental Society
- Wichita Academy of Pharmacists and area pharmacies
- Wichita State University
- Kansas Health Foundation
- United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
- Prescription Network of Kansas



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## FROM PROJECT ACCESS PATIENTS

*"I am very grateful for the doctors willing to contribute their time to work with Project Access. Without them I don't know what I would have done. Thank you!"*

*"Thank you for your help with doctors, tests, meds. Please know I might be a lot worse off without all this help. I am able to work part time and most of my symptoms are controlled. You are very appreciated!"*

*"I call your Project: Access to hope, health, and happiness."*

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Administrative oversight of Project Access is the responsibility of Central Plains Health Care Partnership, a non-profit affiliate of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County. Visit [www.cphcp.com](http://www.cphcp.com)



**Central Plains**  
HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP



**Pharmacists, Residents, Physicians, Dentists and Leaders...  
we join together because we care.**